clearance. No irrigation project in Orissa is pending for environmental clearance. Two Coal projects were received in March, 1991 and one in June. 1987. The nower project vas received in May, 1991.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Six coal mining projects located in Orissa were cleared during the last two years. The details are given below :—

S. No.	Name of Project	Date of clearance
1.	Lilari Opencast proect	30-07-90
2.	Kalinga Opencast project	24-10-90
3.	Ananta Opencast project	13-06-91
4.	Kalinga Coal preparation Plant	21-08-91
5.	Lajkura Opencast project	21-08-91
6.	Lakhanpur Opencast project	10-09-91

United Nations Conference on environment

1160. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have commenced the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) scheduled to be held at Rio in June, 1992, and

(b) If so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992, a Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM) has been established by a Resolution of United Nations General Assembly. There have been a number of discussions on important and substantive issues in the PREPCOM for UNCED, 1992. Government of India have been actively participating in the deliberations of the PREPCOM.

The Ministries of Environment and Forests and External Affairs have been cooperating closely in coordinating our approach to and participation in the PREPCOM Session for UNCED 1992. The Ministry of Environment and Forests in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs have established an elaborate mechanism for consultation with the concerned Ministries and Departments, individual experts, and Institutions and non-governmental organi sations, as given below :

— An Interministerial Group has been established to consider sectoral as well as cross-sectoral issues being considered by the PREPCOM and to prepare inputs for the preparatory process. This group meets frequently to share views on the documents prepared by the UNCED Secretariat and to formulate our own views. This process also covers, from time <o time, the stand to be taken in the climate change and biodiversity negotiations as well as other conferences on environment and development.

The Ministry holds regular consultations with other agencies, experts and non-governmental organisations on particular subjects from time to time. Such consultations have proved helpful in clarifying the complexities of some of the cross sectoral issues.

The Minister (Environment and Forests) during August, 1991 held consultations with eminent experts and Non-governmental Organisations with regard to our general approach to the UNCED.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has also initiated the preparation of a paper on the status of environmental protection measures in India, for circulation in the Brazil Conference.

A group of Secretaries convened by the Foreign Secretary has been meeting to take an overview of the preparatory work for UNCED 1992, to identify issues requiring further studies and deliberations, and the provide guidelines to the Indian delegations to the preparatory meetings, within the framework of the policy laid down by the Government.